

To: Leopold, Matt (OGC)[Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
From: Sentner, Rebecca[Rebecca.Sentner@audubon.org]
Sent: Sun 8/16/2020 9:35:12 PM (UTC)
Subject: Public Comments Urging EPA to Veto Pebble Mine
[AudubonAK-Letter to EPA Gen Council on Pebble Mine.pdf](#)
[20200814 Pebble Mine Comments from Audubon Supporters.xlsx](#)

Dear Mr. Leopold,

Please find attached an Excel spreadsheet (.xlsx) containing the comments of 28,030 supporters of the National Audubon Society in response to the Army Corps' Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Pebble Mine project, urging the EPA to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to veto the Pebble Mine permit. Please note, many people submitted personalized comments (2,019), which can be found on the first tab of the worksheet; others sent or signed on to the comments below:

Alaska's Bristol Bay is the migratory crossroads for birds across the world. Nowhere else on Earth is more important for so many birds from so many continents. It is also perhaps the world's most important salmon region. But the proposed Pebble Mine would dig an enormous mining pit in the heart of spawning salmon and breeding bird habitat. I am writing to urge you to use EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act to veto the mine permit.

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act, it created the 404(c) provision to protect outstanding natural resources like Bristol Bay, which is the heart of Alaska's growing tourism economy. The industry relies on the intact ecosystems and rich wildlife diversity to bring thousands of visitors to the region each year to fish, view brown bears, hunt, and recreate on national park and state park lands. Plus, more than 40% of the salmon consumed in the U.S. comes from Bristol Bay, making it a huge economic engine for Alaska with a \$1.5 billion fishing economy and over 14,000 jobs.

The Army Corps' Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Pebble Mine disregards years of EPA led peer-reviewed science and accumulated knowledge on Bristol Bay. The 20-year mine plan, which will destroy over 3,500 acres of wetlands, lakes, and ponds, and over 80 miles of salmon streams, far exceeds what EPA already determined in 2014 posed "unacceptable" impacts to Bristol Bay.

Please protect the vibrant and vital ecosystem of Bristol Bay with a 404(c) "veto."

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